



Story and Photo by Lee Arten

My shooting buddy, Bob Gardner, has a habit of acquiring guns that inspire envy. He doesn't always hang on to them, and several have gone from his collection to mine. Recently he bought a gun I like a lot, but can't own.

Bob's a busy man. Along with his full-time job, he recently became the holder of a Type One FFL, and then paid the tax necessary to become a machine-gun dealer. He can now sell both regular firearms and machine guns. Bob can also carry "post sample" machine guns in his inventory. (Post samples are restricted to sales to police and government agencies, or to other dealers who can show interest in the guns from police, or other governmental agencies).

The sample I shot is a Swedish subgun. At various times, it's been called the Carl Gustaf, the m/45, and the "Swedish K." The gun is a real Swede, not a "tube gun," or a Port Said (Egyptian-made copy). I'd never shot an m/45, so I jumped at the chance to try one.

We met at the range on a Friday. Nothing was scheduled that evening, so we had it to ourselves. My son, Ethan, took a break from Bulls-eye practice, playing metal guitar, growing his hair long, and sending online messages to his friends, and came along.

Some guns just look better "in person." Some also feel better in the hands than you'd expect from looking at photos. Colt/Sauer rifles are that way for me, and I found the m/45 is too. I'm not a big fan of folding stocks, but the m/45's folder is sturdy and

has a positive lock. The m/45's grip looks blocky and awkward, but feels fine in the hand. The gun has a safety slot in the receiver like the one on the Sten gun. This functions as a safety when the bolt is open. When the bolt is closed and the charging handle is pushed inward it locks the bolt, acting as another type of safety.

The m/45 has an interesting history. It was sold by Sweden to Indonesia, produced under license in Egypt, and used by U.S. Special Forces during the Vietnam War. The S&W M76 subgun – based on the m/45 – was developed after Sweden stopped selling m/45s to the U.S. because of opposition to the war.

According to *The World's Submachine Guns, Vol. 1*, by Nelson and Lockhoven, the m/45 weighs 7.62 pounds unloaded, and 9.97 pounds loaded up. It felt lighter and livelier to me.

Nelson's book said the m/45 was first built to use 50-round Finnish Suomi stick magazines. Later versions were made for 36-round sticks. Bob's sample also worked fine with 36-round Suomi mags. Bob said he'd learned that the Finns made the m/45 mags for Sweden. Side by side, the two mags looked identical, except for a lanyard ring at the base of the Finnish magazine.

The World's Submachine Guns also stated that the earliest version of the gun had no magazine housing. Bob's Carl Gustav was a later version with the removable housing. A later model has a fixed magazine housing. That gun will not accept the Finnish 50 rounders. We tried shooting a 36-round mag through the m/45 with the magazine